

# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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# HIGHLIGHTS:

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# June 1, 2006 Crop Acreages

All wheat seeded acreage in Montana is estimated to be 5.30 million acres, down 40,000 acres from last year. Spring wheat producers seeded an estimated 2.90 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. Acres intended for harvest, at 2.85 million, are up 12 percent from the previous year. The condition of spring wheat crop for the week ending June 25 was rated 6 percent excellent, 63 percent good, 27 percent fair, 3 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Spring wheat crop progress is ahead of last year and the 5 year average. Sixty-six percent of the spring wheat crop has reached the boot stage and 21 percent of the crop is headed. Winter wheat acreage seeded remained unchanged from the March 1 estimate at 2.0 million acres, but is down 7 percent from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 1.95 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 150,000 acres from last year. The condition of the winter wheat crop is rated 16 percent excellent, 47 percent good, 30 percent fair, 6 percent poor and 1 percent very poor for the week ending June 25. The winter wheat crop development is well ahead of last year and the 5 year average with 93 percent reaching the headed stage and 14 percent turning. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 400,000, is down 190,000 acres from a year ago, and down 50,000 acres from the March intended plantings. This would be the lowest acreage since 1999 when 360,000 acres were planted. Acreage of durum wheat intended for harvest is estimated at 395,000 acres, down 32 percent from last year.

Montana barley growers seeded an estimated 800,000 acres, which is down 11 percent from last year. This would be the lowest barley planted acreage since 1953 when 582,000 acres were planted. Barley growers intend to harvest 640,000 acres for grain this year, which is 9 percent below the previous year. Planted acreage for oats, at 65,000 acres, is down 25,000 acres from the previous year, and down 10,000 acres from the March intentions. This would be the lowest planted acres on record. Growers intend to harvest 30,000 acres for grain, down 5,000 acres from a year ago.

Montana hay producers expect to harvest

an estimated 2.75 million acres of **all hay**, 250,000 acres below last year. Of the total hay expected for harvest, 1.65 million acres are expected to be **alfalfa hay**, which is down 100,000 acres from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.10 million acres of **other hay**, which is down 150,000 acres from a year ago.

Montana **corn** growers planted an estimated 60,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from a year ago, but unchanged from the March 1 intentions. Acreage intended for harvest as grain, at 19,000 acres, is up 2,000 acres from a year ago. **Sugar beet** producers planted an estimated 53,600 acres, down 300 acres from 2005. Producers intend to harvest 53,500 of those acres, up 7 percent from 2005.

Farmers in Montana planted an estimated 14,000 acres of **dry beans** in 2006, down 22 percent from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 12,000 acres of dry beans this season, 14 percent below last year.

Flaxseed growers in Montana planted an estimated 40,000 acres this year, down 15,000 from last year's acreage and down 5,000 acres from March 1 intentions. Producers intend to harvest 38,000 acres of flaxseed this year, down from 54,000 acres during the 2005 crop year. Canola producers planted an estimated 16,000 acres for 2006, down 1,000 acres from last year, and expect to harvest 15,500 acres, also down 1,000 acres from 2005. Safflower producers planted an estimated 35,000 acres in 2006, up 5,000 acres from 2005, and expect to harvest 33,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from last year.

The 2006 U.S. winter wheat planted area is estimated at 41.4 million acres, 2 percent above last year but virtually unchanged from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.7 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.45 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.21 million acres are White Area harvested for grain is estimated at 31.1 million acres, down slightly from the June 1 forecast and down 8 percent from last year. Area planted to other spring wheat in the U.S. for 2006 is estimated at 14.6 million acres, up 4 percent from 2005. Grain area is expected to total 14.2 million acres, also up 4 percent from last year. Planted acreage was at or above last year's level in all States, except Minnesota and Utah. The U.S. durum planted area for 2006 is estimated at 1.89 million acres, down 32 percent from last year. This is the lowest durum wheat acreage since 1961. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 1.82 million acres, 33 percent below last year's level. Durum planted acreage is at or below last year's level in all States, except California.

U.S. barley growers seeded 3.50 million acres for 2006, down 10 percent from the 3.88 million acres seeded a year ago, and the lowest since barley planted acreage estimates began in 1926. Acres for harvest, at 2.99 million, are down 9 percent from the 2005 level, and the lowest since 1885.

In the United States, **oats** seeded for the 2006 crop year totaled 4.31 million acres, up 2 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 1.91 million acres for grain, up 5 percent from the 2005 harvested acreage of 1.82 million.

U.S. hay producers expect to harvest 62.7 million acres of all hay in 2006, up 2 percent from 2005. Harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is forecast at 22.4 million acres, up fractionally from last year. All other hay harvested area is expected to total 40.3 million acres, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The largest declines in all other hay area are expected in Montana and South Dakota, down 150,000 acres and 100,000 acres from last year, respectively.

In the U.S., **corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 79.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Farmers increased corn plantings 2 percent from their March intentions.

U.S. **dry bean** growers planted 1.56 million acres for 2006, down 6 percent from last year but 15 percent above two years ago. The June planted acres estimate is 9 percent below growers March planting intentions. Acres to be harvested are estimated at 1.47 million, down 7 percent from last year but 20 percent above 2004. Lower prices for the 2005 crop contributed to the decrease in planted and harvested acres. Eleven of the 18 dry bean States have decreased planted acreage from a year ago, 2 are unchanged, and 5 have increased acres from 2005.

Area planted in the U.S. to **flaxseed** in 2006 totaled 718,000 acres, down 27 percent from last year's total of 983,000 acres. Area for harvest, forecast at 704,000 acres, is down 26 percent from 2005.

U.S. canola producers planted 1.02 million acres in 2006, down 12 percent from 2005. Producers in North Dakota and Minnesota planted 900,000 and 30,000 acres, respectively. Despite late April precipitation, mostly dry conditions during May allowed farmers to get the crop planted ahead of normal following a slow start. Harvested acres are down 13 percent from last year.

**Safflower** planted area in the U.S. increased 34 percent from 2005, to 221,000 acres in 2006. Area for harvest is forecast at 212,000 acres, up 33 percent from last year.

## **U.S. Sweet Cherry Production**

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 268,400 tons, up 7 percent from 2005 but 5 percent below 2004. Beginning with the 2005 forecast, Pennsylvania was discontinued from the sweet cherry estimating program.

The Washington crop forecast of 150,000 tons is unchanged from the June Crop Production report. The crop is 9 percent above 2005 and 12 percent above the production of 2004. If realized, this will be a record high production for Washington surpassing the previous record high set last year. Eastern Washington producing areas experienced a relatively mild winter. This increased crop size is due to favorable spring growing conditions combined with increasing production from new bearing trees.

Oregon production is forecast at 50,000 tons, also unchanged from the June Crop Production report. The crop is 79 percent above 2005 and 16 percent above the production of 2004. Spring conditions have been ideal for many sweet cherry producing areas throughout

Oregon.

Production in California is forecast at 45,000 tons, 15 percent less than last year. The California forecast is carried forward from the June 1 forecast. Excessive rain during bloom resulted in poor pollination. This, combined with a lack of chilling hours and an extreme freeze in February, created undesirable conditions for fruit set. Harvest peaked during the first 2 weeks of June.

The Michigan crop is forecast at 17,000 tons, 37 percent below the 2005 production and 31 percent less than the 2004 crop. Frost caused fruit damage in many areas and fruit drop is higher than average.

Idaho is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 3,200 tons, up 88 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2004. If realized, this crop would be the largest production in over a decade.

Utah is forecasting production to be 2,100 tons, up 17 percent from 2005 and a 31 percent increase from the 2004 crop. Fruit set and quality are reported to be higher than last season.

New York production is forecast at 1,100 tons, 38 percent above the 2005 crop and 22 percent greater than 2004. Production areas are experiencing average to above average growing conditions.

## May U.S. Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.63 billion during May 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.52 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 70 million were egg-type. The number of layers during May 2006 averaged 345 million, up 1 percent from last year. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,213 eggs, down slightly from May 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 2006, totaled 343 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 343 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table-type eggs, 54.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing eggs-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 2006, averaged 71.2 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from June 1, 2005.

June 1, 2006 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

		Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
Crop	Unit	2005	2006 1/	2005	2006 1/	2005	2006 1/	2005	2006 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,150	2,000	2,100	1,950	45.0	3/	94,500	3,
Durum Wheat	Bu.	590	400	585	395	28.0	3/	16,380	3,
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,900	2,550	2,850	32.0	3/	81,600	3,
All Wheat	Bu.	5,340	5,300	5,235	5,195	36.8	3/	192,480	3,
Barley	Bu.	900	800	700	640	56.0	3/	39,200	3,
Oats	Bu.	90	65	35	30	53.0	3/	1,855	3,
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	19.0	148.0	8/	2,516	8,
Sugar Beets	Tons	53.9	53.6	49.9	53.5	22.9	4/	1,143	4,
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.0	3/	10.9	3/	315.0	7/	3,434	7,
Dry Beans	Cwt.	18.0	14.0	14.1	12.0	20.0	5/	282	5,
Dry Peas	Cwt.	135.0	3/	122.0	3/	18.0	7/	2,196	7,
Lentils	Cwt.	150.0	3/	146.0	3/	12.8	7/	1,869	7.
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	25.0	3/	13.0	3/	12.2	7/	159.0	7.
Canola	Lbs.	17.0	16.0	16.5	15.5	1,290	6/	21,285	6,
Flaxseed	Bu.	55	40	54	38	17.0	8/	25,810	8,
Safflower	Lbs.	30.0	35.0	29.0	33.0	890	8/	890	8,
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.0		1,750	1,650	2.20	4/	3,850	4,
All Other Hay	Ton			1,250	1,100	1.60	4/	2,000	4
All Hay	Ton			3,000	2,750	1.95	4/	5,850	4.
UNITED STATES	1011	(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	40,433	41,393	33,794	31,108	44.4	3/	1,499,129	3,
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,760	1,885	2,716	1,822	37.2	3/	101,105	3,
Spring Wheat	Bu.	14,036	14,595	13,609	14,154	37.1	3/	504,456	3,
All Wheat	Bu.	57,229	57,873	50,119	47,084	42.0	3/	2,104,690	3,
Barley	Bu.	3,875	3,496	3,269	2,990	64.8	3/	211,896	3,
Oats	Bu.	4,246	4,312	1,823	1,907	63.0	3/	114,878	3,
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	81,759	79,366	75,107	72,091	147.9	4/	11,112,072	4,
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,299.8	1,361.9	1,242.9	1,321.1	22.2	4/	27,537	4,
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	968.6	3/	949.5	3/	401	7/	381,026	7,
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,665.0	1,561.8	1,568.6	1,465.0	17.4	5/	27,222	5,
Dry Peas	Cwt.	808.0	3/	765.9	3/	18.3	7/	14,003	7,
Lentils	Cwt.	450	3/	439	3/	11.7	7/	5,163	7,
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	42.5	3/	24.5	3/	12.5	7/	307	7,
Canola	Lbs.	1,159.0	1,018.0	1,114.0	974.7	1,419	6/	1,580,985	6,
Flaxseed	Bu.	983	718	955	704	20.6	8/	9,695	8
Safflower	Lbs.	165.0	221.0	160.0	212.0	1,203	8/	192,545	8
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	105.0	221.0	22,389	22,407	3.38	4/	75,771	4,
All Other Hay	Ton			39,260	40,290	1.91	4/	74,819	4,
All Hay	Ton			61,649	62,697	2.44	4/	150,590	4,

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available July 12, 2006 4/ Forecast available August 11, 2006. 5/ Forecast available September 12, 2006. 6/ Forecast available October 12, 2006. 7/ Forecast available November 9, 2006. 8/ Forecast available January 12, 2007. -- Not published.

## May Milk Production Up 2.8 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during May totaled 14.7 billion pounds, up 2.8 percent from May 2005. April revised production, at 14.2 billion pounds, was up 3.7 percent from April 2005. The April revision represented a decrease of 2 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for May, 22 pounds above May 2005.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.26 million head, 128,000 head more than May 2005, and 19,000 head more than April 2006.

#### June 1, 2006 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on June 1, 2006 were 39.1 million bushels, down 24 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 24.0 million bushels, down 40 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off farm amounted to 15.1 million bushels, up 33 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the March - May 2006 quarter was 46.1 million bushels, up 24 percent from 37.3 million bushels last year.

Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2006 were 20.3 million bushels, up 37 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on farm was 9.5 million bushels, up 6 percent. Off-farm storage of barley, at 10.8 million bushels, jumped from 5.8 million a year ago, an 87 percent increase. Disappearance of barley for the March-May 2006 quarter was down 37 percent from the same quarter last year to 7.2 million bushels. Disappearance last year during this quarter was 11.3 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were

945,000 bushels, up 9 percent from last year. On-farm oat stocks were 900,000 bushels, up 13 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off farm were down 31 percent from last year to 45,000 bushels.

For the United States, all wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 2006 totaled 568 million bushels, up 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 111 million bushels, down 31 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks increased 21 percent to 457 million bushels. The March - May 2006 indicated disappearance is down 9 percent from last year at 404 million bushels. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on June 1, 2006 totaled 40.5 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year. On-farm stocks, at 23.1 million bushels, are down 4 percent from June 1, 2005. Off-farm stocks rose 29 percent from a year ago to 17.4 million bushels. The March - May 2006 indicated disappearance of 25.0 million bushels is up 38 percent from the previous year.

U.S. barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2006 totaled 108 million bushels, down 16 percent from June 1, 2005. On-farm stocks are 25 percent below last year at 30.8 million bushels. Off-farm stocks, at 77.3 million bushels, are 12 percent below last year. The March - May 2006 indicated disappearance is 58.7 million bushels, down 6 percent from June 1, 2005. Oats stored in all positions totaled 52.6 million bushels on June 1, 2006, down 9 percent from a year ago. Of the total stocks on hand, 25.2 million bushels are stored on farms, 1 percent lower than a year ago. Off-farm stocks were down 16 percent from last year at 27.4 million bushels. Indicated disappearance during March - May 2006 totaled 22.3 million bushels, compared with 24.5 million bushels on June 1, 2005.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions totaled

4.36 billion bushels on June 1, 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Of the total stocks, 2.35 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 5 percent from the previous year. Off-farm stocks, at 2.01 billion bushels, are up 8 percent from a year ago. The March - May 2006 indicated disappearance is 2.62 billion bushels, compared with 2.44 billion bushels on June 1, 2005.

#### June U.S. Potato Stocks

Montana potato stocks were not published for June 2006.

The 13 major potato States held 40.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2006, down 23 percent from last year and 13 percent below June 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 11 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year.

Disappearance of 333 million cwt from the start of harvest to June 1, is down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 24.7 million cwt, is down 23 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 167 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 33.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 12 percent from last year and 14 percent below the same date in 2004. (continued on back page)

June 1 Grain Stocks

June 1 Grain Stocks								
GRAIN and		MONT	ΓANA		UNITED STATES			
POSITION	June 1, 2005	Mar. 1, 2005	June 1, 2006	'06/'05	June 1, 2005	Mar. 1, 2005	June 1, 2006	
	T	housand Bushe	Percent	Thousand Bushels				
ALL WHEAT								
On Farms	40,000	60,000	24,000	60%	161,275	256,000	111,010	
Off Farms 1/	11,330	25,150	15,060	133%	378,825	716,215	456,833	
TOTAL	51,330	85,150	39,060	76%	540,100	972,215	567,843	
DURUM WHEAT 3/								
On Farms 4/					24,100	39,700	23,100	
Off Farms 1/, 4/					13,494	25,795	17,351	
TOTAL					37,594	65,495	40,451	
BARLEY								
On Farms	9,000	17,000	9,500	106%	41,100	68,400	30,770	
Off Farms 1/	5,780	10,460	10,790	187%	87,317	98,354	77,261	
TOTAL	14,780	27,460	20,290	137%	128,417	166,754	108,031	
OATS								
On Farms	800	1,900	900	112%	25,350	42,200	25,190	
Off Farms 1/	65	75	45	69%	32,592	32,673	27,401	
TOTAL	865	1,975	945	109%	57,942	74,873	52,591	
CORN								
On Farms					2,462,300	4,055,000	2,350,500	
Off Farms 1/					1,858,513	2,932,328	2,012,020	
TOTAL					4,320,813	6,987,328	4,362,520	
1/ Terminals, mills, inter	ior elevators. 2/	Included in all v	vheat. 3/ Not inc	cluded in order	to avoid disclo	sing individual	operations.	

June 1 Potato Stocks (continued from page three)

Comparisons by region will not be made in this narrative to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Comparisons for individual States are as follows. Idaho's potato stocks are down 27 percent from last year, while sheds in Maine held 7 percent less than last year, and Colorado's stocks dropped 39 percent from last season. Stocks in Minnesota decreased 43 percent from 2005 and North Dakota's potato stocks dropped 73 percent from last year. California, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, and New York's potato stocks combined decreased 8 percent from the same date in 2005. Washington's potato stocks are up 13 percent from last season, while Oregon's sheds held 19 percent more than last year, and Wisconsin's stocks increased 6 percent from 2005.

# Montana Red Meat Production Down, U.S. Set a Record High for May

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2006, down 6 percent from May 2005, but up 7 percent from April 2006. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, 100 head below one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,150 pounds, decreased 58 pounds from last year.

During May there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, 200 head above a year ago. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, was down 22 pounds from last year. May sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, 100 head above May 2005. The average live weight decreased 44 pounds to 115 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.05 billion pounds in May, up 9 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in May 2005. This was a new record high for the month of May. The previous record was set in May 2002 when 4.02 billion pounds were produced.

Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 11 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.04 million head, up 9 percent from May 2005. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,241 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.1 million pounds, 1 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 57,000 head, down 3 percent from May 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above last year, at 378 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.54 million head, 6 percent above May 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was up 10 percent from May 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 225,800 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 1 pound from May a year ago.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on June 1, 2006. The inventory was 4 percent above June 1, 2005 and 5 percent above June 1, 2004. This is the second highest June 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.91 million, 14 percent below 2005 and 19 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.80 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 440,000, 600-699 pounds were 370,000, 700-799 pounds were 503,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 600,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.17 million, 9 percent above 2005 and 7 percent above 2004. Other disappearance totaled 115,000 during May, 20 percent above 2005 and 46 percent above 2004.

# U.S. Hog Inventory Up Slightly

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2006 was 60.9 million head. This was up slightly from June 1, 2005 and up 1 percent from March 1, 2006.

Breeding inventory, at 6.06 million head, was up 1 percent from both last year and from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.9 million head, was up slightly from last year and up 2 percent from last quarter.

The March-May 2006 pig crop, at 26.3 million head, was up 1 percent from 2005 and up 3 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, up 1 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.08 for the March-May 2006 period, compared to 9.02 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.20 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.92 million sows farrow during the June-August 2006 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings in 2005, and up 1 percent from 2004. Intended farrowings for September-November 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up one percent from both 2005 and 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 40 percent last year.

# **COMING IN NEXT REPORTER**

Ag Prices Received Sweet Cherries Small Grain Production Austrian Winter Pea Production Dry Edible Pea Production Lentils Production Potato Acreage Wheat Supply & Demand

Peggy Stringer, Director John Hilton, Deputy Director Wendy Bruski, Statistical Info Assistant 10 W. 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, Montana 59626 406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov